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DEPARTMENT FOR IO/RHS AND DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/11/2018

TAGS: PHUM PREL UN KZ

SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON UNGA THIRD

COMMITTEE HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES

REF: A. STATE 95344 _B. STATE 93981

Classified By: Pol-Econ Chief Steven Fagin, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) We delivered ref A/ref B points on UNGA Third Committee human rights priorities to Zhanar Kulzhanova, Counselor in the MFA's International Organizations Department, on September 10. Kulzhanova agreed that the growing use of "no action motions" in the Third Committee was an issue. She maintained, however, that this was not a sign that the G-77 and NAM countries did not care for human rights, but rather was a "reaction to the West's approach" of tabling the resolutions. As she put it, many resolutions are "hammered out behind closed doors" and presented at the Committee "almost as ultimatums." We stressed that our goal in reaching out to other countries prior to the session was to counter this misimpression and establish an ongoing dialogue. On the question of thematic and country resolutions, Kulzhanova told us that the Kazakhstani government was still formulating its positions.